IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute new claims 21-40 therefor as follows:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (New) A method for simulating a communications network through objects that model a respective set of network modules or devices, comprising the step of inserting for every module or device of said set at least one respective interfacing object with other modules or devices of said set; said respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object being uniform for all modules or devices of said set.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of:

realising, for a module or device of said set, a plurality of' different implementations; and

providing a unique interfacing object for all different implementations of said plurality.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of:

realising, for a module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations; and

providing a respective interfacing object for every different implementation of said plurality of different implementations.

24. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the step of configuring the external side of said interfacing objects to allow communication among modules or devices of said set as events.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the step of configuring the external side of said interfacing objects to allow the communication among modules or devices of said set as messages.

26. (New) The method according to claim 21, comprising the steps of:

providing a statistics managing module to collect statistic data pertaining to the operation of said simulated network; and

measuring said statistic data through said statistics managing module through the external side of said interfacing objects associated with the modules or devices of said set.

27. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interfacing objects exchange information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interfacing objects exchange information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

a time indicator;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

29. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said interface objects comprise functionalities selected from:

messages dispatching functionality,

events dispatching functionality,

messages receiving functionality, and

events receiving functionality.

30. (New) A system for simulating a communications network through objects that model a respective set of network modules or devices, comprising for every module or device of said set, at least one respective interfacing object with other modules or devices of said set; said respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object being uniform for all modules or devices of said set.

31. (New) The system according to claim 30, comprising:

for at least one module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations;

a unique interfacing object for all different implementations of said plurality of different implementations.

32. (New) The system according to claim 30, comprising:

for at least one module or device of said set, a plurality of different implementations; and

a respective interfacing object for every different implementation of said plurality of different implementations.

33. (New) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for allowing the communication among modules or devices of said set as events.

34. (New) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for allowing the communication among modules or devices of said set as messages.

35. (New) The system according to claim 30, comprising a statistics managing module to collect statistic data pertaining to the operation of said simulated network, said statistics managing module being configured for measuring said statistic data through the external side of said interfacing objects associated with the modules or devices of said set.

36. (New) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for exchanging information with homologous objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

37. (New) The system according to claim 30, wherein the external side of said interfacing objects is configured for exchanging information with homologous

objects associated with the modules or devices of said set through structures comprising:

an indicator of the source module or device;

a time indicator;

an indicator of the target module or device; and

the exchanged information.

38. (New) The system according to claim 30, wherein said interface objects comprise functionalities selected from:

messages dispatching functionality,

events dispatching functionality,

messages receiving functionality, and

events receiving functionality.

39. (New) An object of a system for simulating a telecommunications network according to any one of claims 30 to 38, comprising at least one respective interfacing object having an external side and an internal side with respect to the modelled module or device, said external side of said respective interfacing object having a character that is independent from idiosyncrasies of said module or device.

40. (New) A computer program product that is adapted to be loaded in the memory of at least one computer and comprising portions of software code capable of performing the method according to any one of claims 21 to 29.